

BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year  
1973

A. S. M. WILSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,  
Woodleigh,  
Barnard Castle.  
DL12 8AA

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Dodds and Gentlemen,

It has been suggested that an Annual Report for 1973 should be provided now although some information is not available till later in the year.

I therefore submit an Abridged Report for your consideration. In the absence of hard figures there seems no reason to believe that the Vital Statistics should have changed from their customary satisfactory pattern. Mr. Dixon has kindly prepared Section II.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for continued advice, support and help during 1973. I am glad too, to have been of service to the Council since 1961, an experience both pleasant and satisfying and I am sorry it must end this month with the Re-organisation of the National Health Service.

Your obedient Servant,

A. S. M. WILSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

A. S. M. WILSON, M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

K. H. PICKWORTH, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.G.P.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor:

E. DIXON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

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S E C T I O N   I

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Acreage)	559
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated Figure Mid-Year 1973)	5,430
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,493.2349
Rateable Value as at 1.4.73	£167,356.00

Main Local Industries

Glaxo Laboratories Ltd. employed 1,627 people during 1973, and are concerned with the manufacture of antibiotics and vitamins by fermentation processes, together with the handling of antibiotics in bulk filling, packing and despatch thereof. This is the main industry and employment in the district.

Other industrial establishments in the district are concerned with engineering and ironfounding; agricultural and dairy engineering; the manufacture of gloves; making-up of leather goods and egg and poultry packing.

Climatic Conditions

Table Showing Annual Rainfall in Inches  
Compiled from Figures Received from the Bowes Museum

	<u>1971</u> Inches	<u>1972</u> Inches	<u>1973</u> Inches
January	1.68	4.75	1.90
February	1.23	2.74	1.18
March	2.63	2.58	0.62
April	3.81	1.52	3.22
May	1.57	3.62	3.19
June	2.42	2.37	1.96
July	2.20	1.91	4.19
August	3.72	0.87	3.31
September	0.45	0.96	1.81
October	2.03	0.55	1.53
November	2.30	2.99	1.04
December	1.17	2.97	1.85
	<u>25.21</u>	<u>27.83</u>	<u>25.80</u>
Average Rainfall 5 years	25.80	1973	
1969 - 1973 - 28.71	27.83	1972	
	25.21	1971	
	32.94	1970	
	31.75	1969	

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

### DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION:

### POLIOMYELITIS, SMALLPOX, MEASLES AND RUBELLA VACCINATION

Protection against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, measles and rubella is available from family doctors and child welfare centres.

Polio protection is available up to the age of 40 and to certain priority groups over that age. The vaccine may be had either by injection or by mouth.

During 1973, the immunisation of school entrants was continued. This work was carried out within the schools and is reflected in the general immunisation statistics for the area.

The following records have been received for work carried out in the area during 1973.

	<u>TOTAL UNDER 16 YEARS</u>	
	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Boosters</u>
Poliomyelitis	59	61
Diphtheria	58	58
Whooping Cough	58	3
Tetanus	75	124
Smallpox	11	19
Measles	55	-
Rubella	40	-

A fair proportion of young children are still wholly unprotected on entry to school despite the steady flow of information, exhortation and encouragement channelled to their homes by the County Council from birth onwards.

### B.C.G. Vaccination

During 1973 protection against tuberculosis continued to be offered in accordance with County Council policy to all school children aged 11 years and over.

A skin test is carried out first to see whether or not a child has developed a degree of natural immunity. Where this indicates the need for protection, vaccination is then carried out.

Of the 312 children tested during 1973, 259 were vaccinated.

Children who are absent, or not vaccinated for such medical reasons as intercurrent infection, skin conditions, etc. are usually taken up at subsequent sessions.

### INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during recent years

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Scarlet Fever	28	3	1	2	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	94	3	44	8
Whooping Cough	9	2	3	3	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	13	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	1	-	1	-	-
Infective Jaundice	4	1	-	1	-

### Tuberculosis

No notifications were received during the year.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

### A. Hospitals

The Richardson-Bede Hospital complex has 82 beds which is a most valuable asset to the community.

### B. Laboratories

Public Health Laboratories are available at Northallerton and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Facilities are also provided at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Pathological Department for urgent bacteriological examinations.

### C. County Council Services

In his quarterly reports to the Area Health Sub-Committee the County Medical Officer includes most of the following information about Health Services in the area.

#### 1. Ambulance Facilities

Barnard Castle urban and rural districts are served by two ambulance depots, three ambulances and six driver-attendants.

#### 2. Home Nursing and Midwifery Services

The District Nurse Midwives practice domiciliary midwifery and carry out general home nursing as required and are now aligned to general medical practices instead of working widely throughout the district.

#### 3. Health Visiting

The number of Health Visitors in the area varied during 1973 as they were aligned to general practices rather than strictly geographically distributed. Their routine duties include visits to mothers and children, tuberculosis patients, the mentally subnormal, school children and the aged.

#### 4. Domestic Help Service

Assistance is provided in the home when necessary on account of old age, home confinement or illness. During 1973, help was provided in 24 homes.

#### 5. Child Welfare Centres

A Baby Clinic and Antenatal Clinic are provided by the family doctors in the town, with a health visitor and district nurses in attendance.



## SECTION II

### GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES

#### Water Supply

Water is impounded in the upper reaches of the Tees Valley, treated at Lartington and distributed in the Urban area by the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board. The water is satisfactory in quantity and quality and gravitates to all parts of the town. On 1st April, 1974, the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board will become part of the Northumbrian Water Authority.

#### Closet Accommodation

All properties in the Urban district have water closets with the exception of three which are in such a position that difficulties are experienced in discharging to the Council's sewers. These properties are Marwood Cottage, Flatts Road, Banners Mill, Bridgegate and Spring Lodge Cottage, Newgate.

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council provide plastic bin liners for dustbins provided by the property owners. These are collected together with trade refuse once weekly with a limited number of properties receiving twice weekly collection and the Richardson Hospital a daily collection. The refuse is collected in two 20 cub. yd. S & D Pakamatic refuse vehicles and larger household articles are removed on request by a Karrier Bantam 10 cub. yd. side loaded vehicle which also collects street sweepings.

During the year, an additional two 5 cub. yd. skips with lids were sited on land in the area, making four skips stationed where the ratepayers can deposit garden and other refuse. These skips are emptied at least once a week and the provision of these receptacles has materially reduced the amount of rubbish dumped in hedgerows. All the above rubbish is deposited by agreement with the Barnard Castle Rural District Council on their refuse tip at Cragg Wood, Cockfield which is nine miles from the town.

#### Improvement Grants - Housing Acts, 1949 - 1969

	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) Applications submitted to the Local Authority in 1973	13	3	16
(b) Applications rejected by the Local Authority	2	-	-
(c) Applications approved since inception of scheme	189	95	286
(d) Grants paid since inception of scheme	169	92	261

#### New Dwellings during 1973

Eighteen dwellings in the private sector were completed and occupied during the year and fifty two units of accommodation were completed by The North Eastern Housing Association Limited.

#### Housing Units Lost During the Year

Three units of accommodation were lost to other users and four flats were brought into use in premises which were formerly a shop.

## Stock of Dwellings - December, 1973

These number 1,814. Of these, 919 were built between 1945-1973, 243 between 1919-1939 and 112+ between 1901-1914. Therefore, more than half of the present families live in new houses or flats built during the last 30 years. Less than 420 units of housing accommodation are in premises built before 1900. These include John Street, Galgate 20, Bede Road 12, Kirk View (part) 20, Montalbo Road 23, Park Terrace 10, Marshall Street 24 and Baliol Street which were built after 1850.

### Housing by the Council

The Council considered building houses outside their area in Startforth Rural District Council owned land, but decided this development would be best undertaken by the new Teesdale District Council which comes into being on 1st April, 1974.

Planning permission for 36 bungalows on the old railway land in Montalbo Road has been received and an agreed layout is being sought for the remainder of the land, these to be sold off as housing plots for development by individuals. At the end of the year, 15 bungalows were completed and occupied in Fairfield Road and 4 more were in course of erection. Two dwellings on Montalbo Road were nearing completion. Work is in progress to convert the two cottages and adjoining buildings in Montalbo Road and behind the Old Goods Station into three bungalows.

### Provision of Dwellings by the Local Authority

	Owners	Situation	No. of Bedrooms				Total
			1	2	3	4	
Pre 1939	Barnard Castle UDC	Dunelm Court	-	1	-	-	1
	North Eastern) Housing Assoc. Ltd. )	Dunelm Court	10	-	-	-	10
		Dawson Road	-	22	14	8	44
		TOTAL PRE 1939	10	23	14	8	55
Post 1939	Barnard Castle UDC	Victoria Road	-	-	8	-	8
	North Eastern) Housing Assoc. Ltd. )	Zetland Road Estate	-	20	28	6	54
		Montalbo Road Estate	8	-	82	12	102
		Zetland Road Ex. Estate	6	20	13	-	39
		Green Lane Estate	8	76	80	12	176
		The Bank Redevelopment	-	1	5	1	7
		Thorngate Redevelopment	4	2	5	-	11
		Bridgegate Redevelopment	-	22	32	-	54
		Galgate Redevelopment	3	1	-	-	4
		Churchill Road Estate	-	-	87	-	87
		Dunelm Court Flatlets	34	1	-	-	35
		Dunelm Court Flats	18	-	-	-	18
		Kalafat Estate	-	6	28	-	34
		TOTAL POST 1939	81	149	368	31	629
		TOTAL HOUSES	91	172	382	39	684

Of the stock of 1,814 dwellings in the town at the end of 1973, 684 are let to tenants nominated by the Barnard Castle Urban District Council. This gives a percentage of the housing stock under the control of the local authority of 37.7.

## Factories and Workshops

There was little change in the register of premises during the year and the number of outworkers finishing wearing apparel was four.

## Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

The following premises registered under the Act were inspected during the year:-

19 Offices  
45 Retail Shops  
1 Warehouse  
6 Catering Establishments.

Conditions found were generally good and no accidents were reported during the year.

## Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269

A temporary dwelling on Prospect Place Caravan Site was once again licensed for twelve months. A water supply, W.C. and foul drainage to the Council's sewer are available for the exclusive use of the occupier adjoining the site.

## Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

### Prospect Place Caravan Site, Staindrop Road, Barnard Castle

This is a residential site for 17 caravans with store, W.C., water supply, foul drainage to the Council's sewer and hard standings to each site. A communal washroom and fire point is situated in the south-east corner of the site and the access road from Road A.688 has a tarmacadam surface.

### Red Well Inn, Harmire Road, Barnard Castle

The ownership of the site changed hands during the year and the new owner submitted a plan for a new toilet block and drainage from each standing to be conveyed to the Council's sewer by gravity.

One caravan on the site is licensed for permanent occupation. The remainder of the site is a holiday caravan site for 35 caravans for use between 1st March and 31st October each year.

The communal toilets used during the year are unsatisfactory but as already stated, plans have been submitted to replace these.

## Rodent Control

21 premises were treated for infestation by rodents, 12 by rats and 9 by mice.

## Slaughterhouses

The following four slaughterhouses in the Urban area were licensed for a further 12 months:

1. Vere Road, Barnard Castle	Mr. W. H. Foster
2. Rear of 54 Galgate, Barnard Castle	W. Peat Ltd.
3. Birch Road, Barnard Castle	Mr. F. A. Youngs
4. Rear of 46 The Bank, Barnard Castle	Mr. R. C. Jackson.

During the year the licence for 46 The Bank was revoked due to the retirement of the owner and from August, the slaughterhouse in Birch Road was not used and it is anticipated that these premises will not be re-licensed.



## Animals Slaughtered

The following table shows the animals killed, inspected and found unfit for human consumption at the Slaughterhouses during the year ending 31st December, 1973:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	544	1	5	1504	801
Number inspected	544	1	5	1504	801
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	2	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	37	1	1	14	171
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	6.8	100.0	20.0	1.06	21.34
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Part of carcase or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

## Milk Supplies

There are no milk producers in the Urban district.

The County Health Inspector is responsible for the collection and sampling of raw milk, none of which is sold in the Urban district to my knowledge.

## Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

## Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The following is a list of food premises in the district:-

Grocers	33
Butchers	7
Fish Shops	6
Confectioners	14
Cafes	8
Licensed Premises	20
	<u>88</u>

## Poultry Inspection

Of the two poultry processing plants in the Urban district, the smaller unit did not slaughter any poultry during 1973. The other plant killed approximately 500,000 hens, 500 chickens and 2,000 turkeys.

